

RESPONSE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

8131

(No. 13 Jun 2013)

[\(See CAD Business Practices and Data Standards\)](#)

Response Plans determine the closest and most appropriate resources to be dispatched to a specific incident type, based on location. Response plans are developed by incorporating Planned Response Areas (PRA) and Standard Response Plans (SRP). Response Plans provide a common framework for dispatching in both manual and automated dispatch systems.

Although the focus is on State Responsibility Area (SRA), the system is adaptable to Local Responsibility Area (LRA), Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) and other political or geographic boundaries and needs.

The development and maintenance of Response Plans, PRAs, and SRPs, shall be the responsibility of the local unit.

PLANNED RESPONSE AREAS (PRA)

8131.1

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PRAs within the Unit:

A PRA is a way of dividing (on a map) the land within a CAL FIRE Unit into defined geographic areas for the purpose of determining the closest and most appropriate resources to be dispatched. PRAs determine response needs based on locally identified criteria (i.e. jurisdiction, political or geographic boundaries, resource type, etc.).

PRAs shall include all lands within a CAL FIRE Unit, and shall include a part of the adjacent Unit(s) where resources from those Units may be part of the initial dispatch response plan.

PRAs must be compatible with the current CAD and GIS data bases and computer programs. The CAD Business Practices and Data Standards (Attachment B) shall be the reference manual used to create and maintain Planned Response Area data.

PRAs are created using an overlay process (physical or virtual) that produces a distinct geographic area with the following characteristics:

1. Entirely within a single unit, battalion, or fire protection district.
2. Entirely within one Direct Protection Area (State, Federal, Local).
3. Additional subdivision of PRAs may be necessary based on the following factors:

- Access – Limited road access or extreme terrain features
- Hydrographic features – Rivers and other water bodies
- Values at Risk – infrastructure, homes, natural resources, protected habitats, etc.
- Topography
- High population areas
- Fuel types
- Travel time
- Fire history

PRA ALPHA-NUMERIC IDENTIFIERS

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- a. The ECC shall assign to each PRA, an alpha, numeric or alpha-numeric designator.
- b. The identifiers should be consecutive and adjoining, and should be numbered left to right, top to bottom.
- c. The PRA number may have a letter of the alphabet attached to the end if needed for jurisdictional or response area splits.

STANDARD RESPONSE PLAN (SRP)

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SRPs set the standard number and type of resources to be dispatched to a new incident as defined by incident type (Medical, Fire, Public Assist, etc). SRPs shall be available for reference in the Unit Emergency Command Center (ECC).

SRPs to contain most fires in the initial attack stage are based on the characteristics of planned response areas, and configured for each dispatch level. Dispatch levels (Low, Medium, and High) are adjusted based on the Unit's Fire Danger Operating Plan (See Handbook 7800).

If information provided by the reporting parties justify a deviation from the SRP, the ECC Duty Officer may modify the response to manage the perceived situation.

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